THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Drugs Controller General of India [DCG(I)] had issued directions under Section 33(P) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act in November, 2007 to the Drugs Controllers of all **the** States UTs to suspend the manufacturing licenses granted by them for Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs under question.

(b) and (c) These drugs were being sold in the market with the licenses granted by State Licensing Authority without approval from the DCG(I). However, in January, 2008, the Drug Manufacturers and their Associations had filed Writ Petitions No.34777-34781/2007, 35354/07,35844/07 and 36369/07 in the High Court of Madras at Chennai, and the matter is sub judice.

Eradication of bird-flu

865. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bird-flu disaster has occurred in the country on an earlier occasion and went through after causing a major damage;

(b) if so, whether it is due to inadequate or ineffective preventive action taken or due to some other factors which are beyond the human control to recur again;

(c) the loss due to bird-flu occurred last time; and

(d) the extent of loss so far occurred and whether there can be an assurance that it can be eliminated once and for all within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The earlier occurrences of bird flu in the country have caused losses to the poultry industry in varying degree.

(b) The Government of India has, in conjunction with the States/Union Territories, taken necessary and effective steps to prevent the occurrence of bird flu in the country. Following could be one of the reasons, among others, for occurrence of bird flu:

(i) bird to bird contact in border areas;

(ii) smuggling of infected birds;

(iii) scavenger, wild and migratory birds;

(iv) Inadequate bio-security in poultry production system.

(c) and (d) As per industry information, the ex-farm egg prices suffered a decline ranging from 26% in Delhi to about 42.9% in Kolkata between 7th January and 5th February, 2008. During the same period, ex-farm live bird broiler prices declined from 10.3% in Delhi to 64% in Kolkata. The poultry industry has put the loss due to the current episode of bird flu in West Bengal at Rs. 1500 crore over a period of two months.

The risk of the occurrence of bird flu continues to exist so long as the country remains vulnerable to the potential causes of the disease. The Government will, however, continue to take necessary preventive steps to minimize this risk.

Kidney racket in the country

866. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether kidney transplant is major racket in the country;

(b) how many doctors are indulging in it;

(c) how many of them have been punished;

(d) what is the punishment meted out to them; and

(e) in how many States this crime is carried out to exploit the poor people and for how many years it is going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) the details showing the details received from the State Governments/CBI/Delhi Police is given in the statement (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 863 part (a) to (f).

Corruption in world bank aided health programmes

t 867. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: SHRI C.PERUMAL: SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN TIWARI: SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of corruption and fraud have been exposed in five, ongoing projects of Tuberculosis, Malaria and AIDS eradication by the World Bank;

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government against persons responsible for this serious irregularity;

(c) whether in order to prevent its repetition in the future, Government will take any steps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) On the 11th January, 2008, **the** World Bank has shared with us a report, *viz.,* DIR. This report is based on the review of five health sector projects which were being implemented during periods varying from 1997 till 2006 end. One project was under State health sector.

In this report, the World Bank has mentioned deficiencies relating to procurement, oversight and implementation like collusion, bid rigging, deficiency in civil works, equipments not installed because of lack of staff etc. Majority of the deficiencies reported relate to decentralized procurements at the district level, which are implemented at the State level.

The World Bank report suffers from several infirmities. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already conveyed its response on the infirmities in the methodology adopted by

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.